

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

If there is any sense of loyalty toward the Constitution of the United States within any of you, you will cease allowing big-money corporate media to continue their quest for monopolies. By weakening control over the media, you have allowed right-wing agenda to attack liberty, balance, and freedom in America.

If there is any American patriotic pride left in any of you, you will stop corporate consolidation before we wind up like WWII Germany. The trend has already started -- you have the power to stop disaster before it strikes.